

**Remarks**

Claims 1, 4, and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hayakawa et al. (US 5,550,938). Claims 2-3 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayakawa et al. in view of Shih (US 6,504,626).

1. Rejection of claims 1, 4, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b):  
Claims 1, 4, and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hayakawa et al. (US 5,550,938) for reasons of record, as recited on page 3 of the above-indicated Office action (part of paper no.12).

**Response:**

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to patentably distinguish from the Hayakawa patent. Claims 1 and 6 now state that the scanner acts as a master device and the scanner treats the portable external storage device as a slave device. That is, the scanner (master device) controls the operation of the slave portable external storage device for storing scanned images in the portable external storage device.

On the other hand, Hayakawa teaches the opposite situation. Hayakawa teaches that the scanner does not operate as a master when transferring images, but rather acts as a slave device to the personal computer or word processor that serves as a host (col.3, lines 43-55; col.4, lines 1-7). There is no teaching or suggestion by Hayakawa that the scanner act as a host to a slave portable external storage device. Therefore, Hayakawa does not teach all of the limitations of claims 1 and 6, and even teaches away from these limitations. Therefore,

Hayakawa does not anticipate the currently amended claims 1 and 6.

Furthermore, the examiner has stated that col.4, lines 46-49 of the Hayakawa patent teach data being transmitted without a host. However, these lines merely say that, "If the switch 3c(4) is not pressed with a predetermined time, the image scanner returns to the main loop 902 and displays the image data corresponding to the first drawing 903". In this case, the image scanner is just displaying the first image that was scanned. There is no mention or suggestion of the scanner directly transmitting data to a storage device, as is required in claims 1 and 6.

In the Hayakawa patent, the scanner acts as a peripheral of the host computer, as is the case for virtually all scanners. This is evident by the memory card interface 4 through which the scanner communicates with the host computer. Therefore, the scanner requires a host for transferring images, and the scanner cannot act as a master device. Each of these is in direct contrast to the limitations stated in claims 1 and 6.

The applicant considers each of the above points to be equally valid reasons why the present invention according to the currently amended claims 1 and 6 are patentably distinguished from the Hayakawa patent. The applicant therefore respectfully requests that the examiner address each of the above points in the next Office action.

Shih (US 6,504,626) teaches an electronic device 64 connected to a scanner 40 for receiving image signals from the scanner 40. However, Shih never teaches or suggests that

the electronic device 64, is an external portable storage device as is specified in claim 1. In Col.3, lines 10-25, Shih teaches that the electronic device 64 can be a internet server, LAN server, printer, personal computer, or fax machine.

- 5 However, none of these devices qualify as external portable storage devices. This is again contrary to the limitations of claim 1.

Therefore, neither Hayakawa nor Shih teach a scanner that  
10 directly transmits image data to an external portable storage device without the need of a host to control image data transmission. Also, neither reference teaches that the scanner acts as a master device and treats the external portable storage device as a slave device.

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Claims 4 and 5 are dependent on claim 1 and should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed. Reconsideration of claims 1, 4, and 5 is respectfully requested.

- 20 2. Rejection of claims 2-3 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 2-3 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayakawa et al. in view of Shih (US 6,504,626) for reasons of record, as recited on pages 4-6 of the above-indicated Office action (part of paper  
25 no.12).

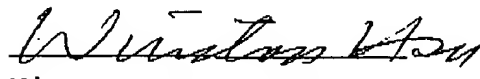
**Response:**

As was stated above, claim 6 is patentably distinct from the Hayakawa and Shih references, either alone or in  
30 combination. Moreover, claims 2-3 and 7-8 are dependent on their respective base claims and should be allowed if the respective base claims are allowed. Reconsideration of claims

2-3 and 6-8 is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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